

NAGAOKA -- 09/978,543  
Attorney Docket: 008312-0283791

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figure 1 with Figure 1 as shown in the attached replacement sheet of such figure.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12 and 14-16 are pending. By this Amendment, Figure 1 is amended. Reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Figure 1 was objected to. Figure 1 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Nagaoka et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0080252 A1) and claims 5, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nagaoka et al. in view of Yokonuma (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0051785 A1). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nagaoka et al. is the publication of U.S. Application 09/796,433, which was filed March 2, 2001. Enclosed is a certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application 2000-334974, filed in Japan on November 1, 2000, and upon which the instant application relies for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. Accordingly, by submission of the certified English translation, Applicant has establish a date of invention of at least November 1, 2000, which is prior to the March 2, 2001 U.S. filing date of Nagaoka et al. Accordingly, Nagaoka et al. are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

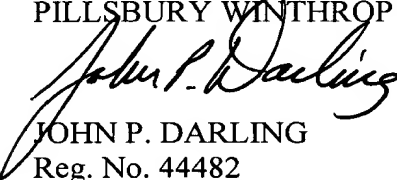
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Replacement Sheet (Figure 1)  
Certified English Translation of JP 2000-334974  
filed November 1, 2000